Application No.: 10/072,936 Examiner: Shay L. Balsis

Art Unit: 1744

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method Method for manufacturing brushes comprising the steps of: providing whereby brush bodies are provided with brush fibers; cutting the and these brush fibers are then cut off by means of a device including comprising at least one a rotating cutting knife and a at least one counter knife cooperating with the at least one rotating cutting knife; [[,]] wherein the cutting off the brush fibers are cut off by making the cutting knife as well as and the counter knife carry out a rotational movement, mainly along one and the same axis of rotation.

- 2. (Currently Amended) <u>The method</u> <u>Method</u> according to claim 1, wherein the above-mentioned knives, the rotating knife and the counter knife respectively, are driven in <u>at least one of</u> one or several of the following ways:
- such that the rotating cutting knife and the counter knife move in the opposite sense of rotation, at least for a part of the cutting cycle;
- such that the rotating cutting knife moves continuously rotating in one direction and such that the counter knife moves continuously rotating in the opposite direction;
- such that the rotating cutting knife and the counter knife are moved, at least for a part of the cutting cycle, in the same sense of rotation but at a different rotational speed;
- such that at least one of the knives, in other words the cutting knife and/or the counter knife, are displaced with an oscillating movement, so as to rotate thus rotating back and forth; and

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- such that the cutting knife and the counter knife are driven at different rotational speeds. [[;]]

such that the cutting knife and the counter knife are driven at such a speed
that the successive intersections, intersecting lines respectively, move
according to a rotating path.

- 3. (Currently Amended) <u>The method</u> <u>Method</u> according to claim 1, wherein use is made of a rotating cutting knife with several cutting edges and/or of several counter knives.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 1, wherein the device for cutting the brush fibers and the brushes to be cut, in order to cover <u>a</u> the entire fiber pack comprising the of brush fibers, are mutually moved along one another.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of extending wherein a cutting operation is carried out whereby the device for cutting the brush fibers extends with its the axial axis crosswise thereof in relation to the longitudinal direction of the a fiber pack comprising consisting of the brush fibers to be cut.
- 6. (Currently Amended) <u>The method</u> <u>Method</u> according to claim 1, wherein the brush fibers are provided with a profile, to which end formed by at least one of the following two techniques or the combination <u>thereof</u> of the following two techniques is applied:

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- the use of a profiled rotating cutting knife and a counter knife working in conjunction therewith with it;

- altering the distance between the rotating cutting knife and the brush body of the brushes to be cut, such that the cutting knife penetrates deeper or less deep in the <u>a</u> fiber pack <u>comprising the brush fibers</u>.

7. (Withdrawn) Device for cutting brush fibers, of the type which comprises at least a rotating cutting knife and at least one counter knife, wherein the counter knife can be moved.

- 8. (Withdrawn) Device according to claim 7, wherein the counter knife can rotate around the same axis of rotation as the rotating cutting knife.
- 9. (Withdrawn) Device according to claim 8, having driving means which are selected from the following possibilities:
- driving means which drive the rotating cutting knife and the counter knife at least for a part of the cutting cycle in the opposite sense of rotation;
- driving means which drive the rotating cutting knife continuously rotating in one direction and which drive the counter knife continuously rotating in the opposite direction;
- driving means which drive the rotating cutting knife and the counter knife at least for a part of the cutting cycle in the same sense of rotation, but at a different rotational speed;

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 driving means which drive at least one of the knives, in other words the cutting knife and/or the counter knife, with an oscillating movement, thus rotating back and forth;

- driving means which drive the cutting knife and the counter knife at different rotational speeds;
- driving means which drive the cutting knife and the counter knife at such a speed that the successive intersections, intersecting lines respectively, move according to a rotating path.
- 10. (Withdrawn) Device according to claim 7, having a rotating cutting knife with several cutting edges and/or several counter knives.
- 11. (Withdrawn) Device according to claim 7, having means which make it possible to provide a profile in the brush fibers, whereby these means provide for one of the following two techniques or the combination of the following two techniques:
- the use of a profiled rotating cutting knife and a counter knife working in conjunction with it;
- the displacement of the rotating cutting knife towards the brush, such that the cutting knife penetrates into the fiber pack;
- the displacement of the rotating cutting knife according to a straight path along the brush, either at an angle or up to a given place;
- the displacement of the rotating cutting knife along the brush according to a controlled path, in particular a non-straight path or an interrupted path.